

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1914.

IN THE PATH OF NAPOLEON

100 Years After His
Downfall

By JAMES MORGAN

THE GREAT WAR OF 1813

Mr. Morgan draws a picture today of the opening of the last great general war in Europe before the war of 1914, when Napoleon hastened back from Russia and created a new army on the ruins of the grand army to repel the avenging Czar and the still pursuing Cossacks.

Russia, Prussia, and England then were in a triple alliance against France, which was virtually disarmed until, in a few wonder-working weeks, Napoleon had organized another mighty army.

The uprising of the German people, Napoleon's remarkable prophecy of the Slavs overrunning Europe in 100 years.

THE RISING OF
THE PEOPLES

DATES AND EVENTS—AGE 4.

Dec. 1813—Napoleon arrived in Paris.
Dec. 1813—Prussian Gen. York went over to the Russians.
Jan. 1814—King of Prussia left Berlin.
Feb. 1814—Alliance between Russia and Prussia.
Feb. 1814—The Cossacks in Berlin.
Mar. 1814—Saxony joined Napoleon.
Mar. 1814—Russia joined Napoleon.
Apr. 1814—Napoleon left for the front.
May 1814—Won battle of Lützen.
May 1814—Entered Dresden.
May 20, 1814—Won battle of Bautzen.
June 1814—Armistice until August 14.

EMBOLDENED by the calamity that had overwhelmed Napoleon and his army in the Russian campaign, the people of Germany rose in the summer of 1813 and fell upon him. And the leader of that great popular uprising was none other than Alexander I, the autocrat of all the Russias, who presented himself as the deliverer of the nations from the tyranny of the French.

Napoleon could not believe that the continent would trust itself to such a leadership, and he never ceased admonish the countries of the west to beware of the Russian peril, which he himself had always viewed with dread. Even at the love feast of Tilsit in 1807, when he and Alexander, cooling and biding, sat down to divide the earth between them, he realized, with all the stubbornness in his nature, the Czar's longing for Constantinople and, although he let him take Finland from the Swedes, he saw to it that the treaty of coalition should forbid Russia to fortify the natural outposts of Finland in the Gulf of Bothnia and make the Åland Islands the Gibraltar of the Baltic.

Nor would he consent to the Russians moving farther west through Poland, which he looked upon as a necessary barrier against them, and rather than weaken it, he sacrificed his chance to marry a sister of the Czar. He declared on the eve of the campaign of 1812 that he would not agree to let the Russians have an open Polish village, not even if the Cossacks stood on Montmartre.

No doubt he was honestly persuaded that he was defending the civilization of the west when he marshaled the hosts of twenty nations and led them against the Czar and his equally sincere afterward when he raised the warning cry, "In a hundred years Europe will be all Cossack or all republican."

The Russian Peril.

In his exile at St. Helena he made this prophecy, while reviewing his Moscow campaign: "A hundred years hence, I shall be applauded and Europe, especially England, will regret that I did not succeed. When they see their finest countries overcome and a prey to those northern barbarians, they will then say, 'Napoleon was right.' Having himself failed to erect a dike against the barbarous horde, he was convinced that nothing could stop the advance of the Slav. Although England and France and Prussia might yet form a triple alliance against it, he declared it would be in vain, because Russia, by giving Serbia and perhaps other Balkan lands to Austria, could easily seduce that power while she was planting herself at the Dardanelles. "Once mistress of Constantinople," the prophet exulted, "Russia controls the commerce of the Mediterranean, becomes a great naval power and God knows what may happen."

His intimation that England, which had allied herself with Russia against him, might yet be the ally of France against him, came true when two years after his march to Moscow, in the Crimean war of 1854-55, the British and French under Napoleon III stood shoulder to shoulder to save Constantinople from the Russians. Again the two nations drew together in 1878, when the Cossacks were in sight of the dome of St. Sophia, and, having been joined by Germany and Austria in the Congress of Berlin, they saved Constantinople once more.

But diplomacy as well as politics make strange bedfellows, and in 1914 we see England and France the allies of the Slav against the Teuton in a war that broke out for the rescue of Serbia from Austria. It is none the less remarkable that Napoleon should have foretold that Slavic ambitions would be the next disturbing factor in Europe, and that in his mention of Serbia he should have put his finger on the very nation that was to lead the next general European war after Waterloo.

He failed to foresee, however, the development of the great Germanic empire which would sweep Asia from Sedan; challenge England on the sea; and drive the Slavs of all nations to unite in self-defense. The Pan-Slavic movement was born, and the Slavs of Russia and the Balkans have been drawn together in the presence of that peril that the St. Petersburg politicians dared not sacrifice Serbia as a bribe for Austria. Thus the war of 1914 finds France and England joining with Russia against the Germans just as 100 years ago Germany and England joined with her against the French. Yet, when this political and commercial conflict is over, Napoleon's forecast of the descent of the Northmen may be verified. A few years more or less count for little in the slow, glacial movements

of the races, and there is still some time remaining even within the limit of the century which the prophet of St. Helena set for the fulfillment of his prophecy, when he assured his listeners, "I see into futurity farther than most men."

Blinded by Power.

All of Napoleon's fellow-sovereigns shared in some degree his distrust of Russia, when in the spring of 1813, the avenging Czar entered Germany in pursuit of the wreck of the retreating grand army. "Napoleon or I, I or Napoleon," Alexander had exclaimed; "We cannot reign side by side." The earth was not large enough to be divided with the Corsican.

But the subjugated monarchs of the west drew back from the offer of the Czar to be their defender. They preferred even the chains of the French and the ill they had rather than fly to others unknown which the Slavs might bring upon them. The Emperor of Austria, which in other days had fired his legions with the thirst of the Russian bear for the waters of the Hellespont and the Vistula, hesitated between a choice of evils, their subjects bailed Alexander as a savior and welcomed him as a friend and brother, the wild horsemen from the Valley of the Don as they loomed across the German plains clear to the gates of Hamburg. Prussian soldiers mistook the King Frederick William III and rallied to the standard of the Czar. The German people sprang to arms and, throwing off the yoke of the French, drew around the hated conqueror of Jena a sword of the eagle which saw his own feathers plucked to wing the darts that were the fate of Napoleon.

His wonderful fortunes had blinded him, the king and princes to his back, back the tide of popular feeling. Patently imagining that the bond of blood which united him to the Emperor of Austria, Louis XVI, the Cossacks, he looked upon Marie Louise and her baby as hostages of peace between Austria and France, and humored his imperial father-in-law by planning a special coronation for the Empress and the King of Rome.

But while he was relying on a young woman and a teething child, a poor little German girl, without a crown and without a title, influenced the destinies of nations far more than the daughter and the grandson of the Hapsburgs. For when that simple fraulein sold her finger rings for 150 and gave the money for the triumph of her fatherland, the loyal women of Germany caught the infection of her spirit of sacrifice and heaped upon the altar of patriotism not only their rings but all their gold and silver as well. As many as 150,000 German francs, we are told, pulled the wedding rings off their fingers and dumped them in the mint, gladly taking and proudly wearing in exchange iron rings inscribed, "Gold I gave for iron."

Although Goethe might smile and say to the Germans, "Shake your chains, if you will not break them," simpler minds were braver and truer. The spirit of freedom burst upon the land and the church, the school and the home were leagued for German independence. Even the Emperor Francis, at Vienna, and King Frederick William III, at Berlin, were helpless to resist the tidal wave that was sweeping over their lands. Even while it rose from their ankles to their knees, they went on haggling and bargaining with the French diplomats to make the best terms they could with Napoleon. They feared the Czar and the clamorous populace and were slow to yield to either.

Napoleon's own ambassadors tried to warn him of the strength and swiftness of the current, with which his monarchial allies were contending. But he was deaf to the counsels of prudence in 1813 as he had been in 1812. Metetrach scoffed that his own life had been threatened because of his Napoleonic sympathies and he assured him that he was ready to die for the Austro-French alliance if Napoleon would only help him allies by displaying a new spirit of moderation and generosity. But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, Napoleon could not or would not recognize his extremity and his opportunity and disgorge any of the spoils of his victories. "I begin to give back villages, he will next demand whole kingdoms," he said. Frederick William, while boasting that he punished even those who dared jest at Napoleon, and while hinting at a matrimonial alliance between the Hohenzollerns and the Bonapartes, humbly begged that his long overdue bill for brothers the wild horsemen from the Valley of the Don as they loomed across the German plains clear to the gates of Hamburg. Prussian soldiers mistook the King Frederick William III and rallied to the standard of the Czar. The German people sprang to arms and, throwing off the yoke of the French, drew around the hated conqueror of Jena a sword of the eagle which saw his own feathers plucked to wing the darts that were the fate of Napoleon.

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Meanwhile, however, Austria attempted the role of peacemaker and held out the hope France could have peace if Napoleon would give up the conquests of the Rhine and retire from Germany, the Tyrol and Dalmatia. This, indeed, would have left him a fair game for the German princes and stood to win or lose all on a single throw. But now the dice of the gods were loaded against him.

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Napoleon and the Pope.

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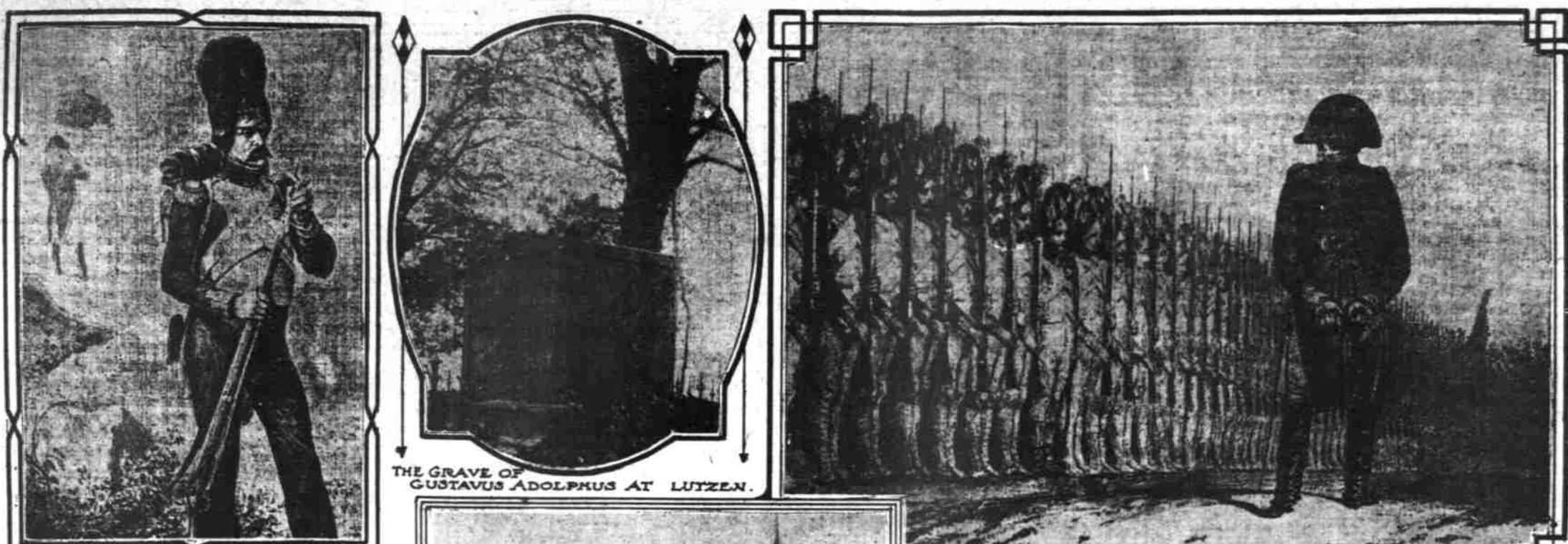
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A FRENCH GRENADEIER. (Napoleon in the background.)
(Ropas Coll. Mus. Mil. Mac. Soc.)THE GRAVE OF
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS AT LUTZEN.THE TOWERS OF BAUTZEN,
IN SIGHT OF WHICH 40,000
MEN FELL.

A ST. HELENA PROPHECY.

In a hundred years Europe will be all Cossack or all Republican.

back from Russia. Since the moment he awoke in Paris the morning after his return from the disastrous campaign, his mind was fixed on the fate of the empire.

The land had been combed again and again, and now it must be combed with the teeth. The sons of the well-to-do were raked in along with those who had drawn lucky numbers in the yearly draft. For three years the annual conscription had been anticipated to meet the demands of the Spanish, Wagram and Russian campaigns, and the youth of the nation had been called to the colors a year in advance of the normal time. Now another forced loan must be extorted from the future, and the conscripts of 1814 were snatched from their mothers in the beginning of 1813. They took to the woods by the thousands, but were hunted down and dragged to the standards. Others, however, made good their escape by maiming and incapacitating themselves.

The adult male population of the country had been winnowed so often that hardly anything remained but the chaff. The physical standards of recruiting were lowered to catch all who were strong enough to walk and big enough to carry a musket. Many of the recruits were so small or young that Savary, the minister of war, objected to their drilling before the cheering crowds of cynical Paris. The equine race had suffered with the human from the desolation of the wars. In the Prussian army, for example, the strong enough to draw the artillery and that branch was seriously crippled by the loss of too young and small for the load. Prices had risen as high as \$5 for cavalry, \$105 for dragoon, and \$100 for cuirassier horses.

The New Army.

But in the face of all difficulties, Napoleon had an army of more than 200,000 soldiers in Germany, with 600 cannon, when he left Paris for the front at 1 o'clock of an April morning after investing the Emperor with the regency and bidding good-by to the little King of Rome, who in vain had been lifting the prayer for peace which his government taught him.

In less than four months since his return from Russia he had built up a new

army on the wreck of the grand army. And it is well to remember that he had to do it without telegraphs or telephones, without railways or automobiles, and without even a press to aid him in rallying and inspiring the people and in organizing and supplying his forces.

The peoples of Germany had forsaken him, but the prince of the Rhineish confederation remained true and drove their unwilling subjects to his eagles. "Not for a moment," he said, "did I have to complain of a single one of the princes." But a prince of his own house was playing him false. For Murat, King of Naples, ever since he abandoned the grand army and raced back to his throne, had been intriguing with the enemies of his brother-in-law in an effort to save the crown that Napoleon gave him. Even the Emperor's warning to him that he was mistaken in assuming that the lion was dead, did not deter the King from secret conferences with the representatives of England, Austria and Russia. For once, therefore, Napoleon began a campaign without the assistance of his old cavalry leader. But thanks to the loyalty of France and the German princes and to his own titanic labors, he was enabled to cross the Rhine nearly twice as many men as the Russians and the Prussians had been able to assemble against him. Few, however, had ever smelled powder and most of them had to be taught to load a musket. The majority of their corporals, sergeants, lieutenants and captains were strangers to war, for the veteran officers of the lower grades as well as the veterans in the ranks lay by the wheat fields of the Danube, in the valleys and on the Sierras of Spain, or on the Russian steppes. Moreover, the very soul of the army was dead and its commander no longer wore the aureole of victory.

Slav and Teuton.

The foe, on the other hand, not only had stolen away the spirit of the grand army, but many of the officers of the Prussian contingent also had borrowed leaves from the master's book of recipes for making war and now understood the Napoleonic method as well as his own marshals. They had not served for nothing a seven years apprenticeship since Jena.

Although Napoleon had sternly limited the army of conquered Prussia to 25,000 men, his staff had been smart enough to give vacations by the wholesale and call the men to the colors as they were needed. The little organization a training school for many more than the stipulated number. At the outbreak of the war, the King had recalled Gen. Blucher from his banishment which he had incurred by his fiery rebellion against the French domination, and had placed him in command. Blucher, like most of the patriot leaders who had roused Prussia, was not a Prussian but a native of a minor German state. Although an old man of seventy-two, his flaming hatred of Napoleon filled him with the ardor of youth, and although an illiterate, hard-drinking, loud-swearer, tumulous character, his natural fighting qualities made up for his lack of technical knowledge.

The allies, however, suffered from a divided command. The Slavs would not tolerate a Teuton over them and the Russians never have developed a high order of generalship among themselves. Kutusoff had died just as he finished his long chase of Napoleon and had driven

and on to Berlin, the River Spree washes no walls more picturesque than those of the little city of Bautzen, whose quaint medieval towers stood witness to the deadly struggle of more than 200,000 men as they swirled for two days about the hillocks that rise from the countryside.

In the fighting on the first day, Napoleon drove the Czar and the allies out of the town, and that night the campfires of his army formed a flaming line nine miles long. At 5 in the morning of the second day, he was in the saddle and riding among his troops, and at 3 he announced to them that the battle was won. The chimes were sounding in the belfry of the cathedral of Bautzen, where for nearly 20 years now Catholics and Protestants have used the same altar, when the Czar ordered the defeated army of the alliance to retreat through the Silesian gorge.

The losses of both sides together aggregated not far from 40,000. Napoleon had won another victory as costly and as bloodless as that of Lützen. For through a misunderstanding of orders on the part of Ney, the Russian and Prussians, who could and should have been shut off and encircled, made good their escape, leaving not a button or a nail in the hands of the victor.

Death of Duroc.

The Emperor hastened after the fleeing allies the next day in an effort to retrieve the mistake and destroy the retreating army. While he was in hot pursuit, a Russian gun was trained upon him and a ball blazed in his car as it tore past him to lay low Duroc, the grand marshal of the palace, who was riding a few yards behind him.

Napoleon turned to see his devoted servant writhing in pain from a mortal and hideous wound. The order was given to cease firing, and the Emperor, turning to his camp, seated himself in the midst of the guard while he succumbed to his emotions of grief over the loss of an inseparable companion in the midst of the battle. His general came up to receive orders for following the allies, but his only reply was, "No more, everything!"

No more, everything! Napoleon had been so closely associated with him, and Berthier sometimes quarreled with him. But Duroc, he used to say, "loves me as a dog loves his master." And faithful even in the grave, he lies at the rate of his master's tomb in the Invalides.

The Fatal Truce.

The Russians and Prussians, when Napoleon resumed the chase in the morning, continued to flee before him, while they quarreled among themselves. He had been in the field only five weeks and had won two great battles, swept back the enemy from the Saale to the Oder, a distance of more than 200 miles, and filled the counsels of the allies with dissension. But although he had 200,000 men at his command against not more than 120,000, he was ready therefore to welcome a pause in the campaign. He had found it harder to get horses than men or boys. Moreover, he was fast driving his foes upon the Austrian frontier and into the arms of his father-in-law, who he feared, would thus be drawn into the alliance against him.

In the presence of that delicate situation he did a thing alien to Napoleonic warfare—he hesitated. He had to face it. He entered into an armistice with the Austrian frontier and into the arms of his father-in-law, who he feared, would thus be drawn into the alliance against him.

Next Sunday—Marie Louise's father turns upon Napoleon, whose allies all forsake him and leave him to face Europe in arms. The Emperor's last great victory at Dresden. The battle of the nations at Leipzig and the retreat to Paris.